

Maine State Board of Education

Education 2016-2021: A Strategic Vision for Education in Maine

INTRODUCTION

The State Board of Education represents the public's voice in Maine's public education structure. It consists of nine adult members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, serving staggered five-year terms. The State Board of Education also has two non-voting student members representing the two Congressional Districts. Each student member is nominated and confirmed in the same way as an adult member, and serves a two-year term. Maine law specifies that the State Board of Education be "broadly representative of the public" and each new member is limited to no more than two terms. There must be at least four members from each Congressional District. As an independent body, the State Board of Education has the parents and students of the State as its constituency and is committed to seeing that the resources provided by Maine taxpayers produce the highest quality, most cost-effective education for Maine's students.

The responsibilities of the Maine State Board of Education, as specified in Maine's laws and rules, have an impact on every public school in Maine. Among its many charges, the Board is responsible to participate in the development of educational policy in Maine. It has a responsibility to advise the Commissioner of Education by providing recommendations for K-12 public education that aid the Commissioner in carrying out his/her role. The State Board of Education may receive requests from the Governor's Office and/or the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to undertake a study and/or make recommendations on pending legislation. Members of the State Board of Education frequently appear before committees of the Legislature to offer testimony on bills with implications for education and are appointed to serve on ad hoc and blue ribbon panels to provide a non-partisan, diverse perspective in the development of legislation and policy.

The Board has a number of functional areas as well. In major school construction funded by the State, the Board participates in the approval for the site of the construction and in various stages of the construction process. The Board carries major responsibilities in educator certification, the approval of teacher education programs in institutions of higher education, recommending degree-granting authority for higher education, and adopting and receiving federal funds for the State Plan for Career and Technical Education.

The Board is also responsible for appointment of three members to the Maine State Charter School Commission (“Commission”). It also interviews and approves the four members at large. As part of its on-going activities, the Board monitors the work of the Commission and reviews its annual monitoring reports of authorized charter schools.

Pursuant to its enabling statute, the Board is charged with maintaining a five-year strategic plan. When initially enacted, the statute directed the Board to match its strategic plan to the work of a long-disbanded Maine education task force and the federal Goals 2000: Educate America Act, which established national planning objectives, with specific milestones to be achieved by the year 2000. While these sources are no longer authoritative guiding principles in state or national education policy, the aspirations in their work are in many ways enduring and serve to guide the development of the Board’s direction as described in this strategic plan.

MISSION

The Mission of the State Board of Education is to provide policy leadership that promotes a Maine public school system whose graduates will meet current and future learning standards and to make recommendations to the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government that will further this mission.

VISION

The Vision of the State Board of Education is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Maine State Board of Education shall conduct its work in alignment with its mission and vision by:

- Ensuring the voices of the public are heard in the educational policy development and debates.
- Effectively communicating with educational stakeholders across the State of Maine to understand their agendas and perspectives.
- Conducting its public meetings and hearings across the state of Maine.
- Effectively organizing its efforts to discharge its assigned responsibilities.

GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Maine State Board of Education through open communication and collaboration with the Governor's office, the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, and educational stakeholder groups will promote the following four goals to provide the best education possible for all Maine public school students.

GOAL #1: STRENGTHEN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Board sets as its goal to strengthen and enhance the delivery of Career and Technical Education programs in the State of Maine.

Through its study of career and technical education policy and implementation, the Board has determined that Maine students should be afforded robust, high quality, and comprehensive educational offerings that lead towards careers, which may be enhanced by, but do not require, traditional 2 or 4-year advanced degree programs. Strong offerings leading to high school graduation will afford Maine students the opportunity to achieve meaningful academic success while creating for themselves the path to a livelihood and the foundation for their responsible citizenship in the community, state, and nation.

Milestones: The Maine State Board of Education shall pursue this goal through the following milestones:

1. By the end of 2016, work with the Maine Department of Education to develop a slate of potential reforms or improvements to enhance the effectiveness of career and technical education opportunities for Maine students, including the method and scope of offering substitute CTE content standards for 11th and 12th grades and/or academic credit.
2. By August 2017, with the Maine Department of Education and other stakeholders to develop a position and recommendations, if any, regarding changes to the state funding of career and technical education programs, including examination of past work on an “EPS for CTE” model, better targeting of Board administered endowment funds, and redevelopment of the State’s Perkins grant program.
3. In the end of 2017, submit any legislation and policy recommendations to the Department of Education and Maine Legislature for consideration during the legislative session.
4. In 2018 and 2019, monitor implementation of any reforms and emerging issues affecting the effectiveness of Maine’s career and technical education programs.
5. In 2019, convene a career and technical education summit(s), with a diverse group of stakeholders to include higher education to evaluate improvements to the delivery of programs in light of the emerging economic and

educational environment of 2020.

6. In 2020, work with the Maine Department of Education and other stakeholders to develop further policy and legislative recommendations to enhance the delivery of career and technical education programs in Maine.
7. By the end of 2020, submit legislative and policy recommendations to the Department of Education and Maine Legislature for consideration during the legislative session.

Implementation Plan and Performance Measures:

- A. By August of 2016, the CTE Committee and the Maine Department of Education shall have held workshops or hearings to inform the development of a slate of policy and legislative recommendations, including the method and scope of offering substitute CTE content standards for 11th and 12th grades, academic credit and/or the feasibility of granting CTE Directors authority for giving academic credit in schools.
- B. By August 2016, the CTE Committee and the Maine Department of Education shall have studied the challenges of cross-walking career and technical education curriculums and other academic content for the purposes of assigning academic credit.
- C. By December 2016, the Board shall have reviewed and approved some or all of the CTE Committee's recommendations and submitted them to the Commission of Education or members of the Maine Legislature for submission for consideration.
- D. By August 2017, the CTE Committee and the Maine Department of Education shall have studied and convened stakeholder sessions as appropriate to examine ways to better fund career and technical education programs in Maine.
- E. By December 2017, the Board shall have reviewed and approved some or all of the CTE Committee's recommendations and submitted them to the Commissioner of Education or members of the Maine Legislature for submission and/or consideration.

- F. By August of 2019, the CTE Committee in cooperation with the Maine Department of Education and other stakeholder groups shall have planned and delivered CTE summits.
- G. By July of 2020, the CTE Committee shall have convened hearings or stakeholder groups to evaluate the effectiveness of changes to career and technical education programs in Maine and develop other proposals or initiatives as a result of the 2019 summits.
- H. By January 2021, the Board shall have approved any legislative proposals and submitted them to Commissioner of Education or members of the Maine legislature for submission for consideration by the Maine Legislature.

GOAL #2: STREAMLINE AND ENHANCE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND PREPARATION IN MAINE

Short Term Goal: along with the DOE Certification Team, to identify some necessary rule/statute changes that could be done during the legislature or through the rulemaking process if the Legislature is not required.

Long Term Goal: to continue our involvement in the more comprehensive statute and rule review to include all of the layers of the Certification and Teacher Preparation both horizontally and vertically. This would include recommendations for changes to rule/statutes to be considered by the legislature.

GOAL #3: ENHANCE THE PRIVACY PRACTICES RELATING TO MAINE STUDENTS

The Board sets as its goal to establish privacy of student information in Maine as a state priority and to ensure an effective regime is in place to assure this objective is met.

The Board believes that the evolution of information technology, including concepts

of cloud computing, “Big Data,” and data mining, collectively demand that Maine students be served by privacy laws, rules, and policies that are immature in Maine. Accordingly, the Board has determined to play a more active role in promoting student privacy in Maine.

Milestones: The Maine State Board of Education shall pursue this goal through the following milestones:

1. By August 2016, form an ad hoc committee to study and evaluate student privacy practices.
2. By the end of 2018, develop a slate of potential reforms or improvements to enhance the privacy and security of student information for Board adoption.
3. By early 2019, submit legislation and policy recommendations to the Department of Education and Maine Legislature for consideration during the 129th Legislature.
4. In 2019 through 2021, actively monitor the impacts of any privacy efforts and the evolution of technology on Maine students.

Implementation Plan and Performance Measures:

- A. By December 2016, the ad hoc committee shall have attended training by NASBE or a similar entity on national trends in privacy regulation.
- B. By December 2017, the ad hoc committee shall conduct not less than four hearings or stakeholder discussions regarding policy and legislative considerations to enhance student privacy in Maine.
- C. By September 2018, the Board shall establish a position regarding the advisability of adoption of the privacy enhancements through legislation in Maine.
- D. In early 2019, submit legislative recommendations to submit legislation and policy recommendations to the Department of Education and Maine Legislature for consideration during the 129th Legislature.

- E. By December 2020, the ad hoc committee shall conduct not less than four additional listening sessions, hearings, or stakeholder groups to evaluate the effectiveness of on-going privacy and information security efforts affecting Maine students.
- F. By January 2021, the Board shall have approved any legislative proposals and submitted them to Commissioner of Education or members of the Maine legislature for submission for consideration by the 130th Legislature.

GOAL #4: OVERSIGHT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The goal of the Board is to continue to promote responsive and responsible state school construction policies and processes that address varied academic needs of Maine students including student safety and health.

All state-supported major capital school construction projects require approval by the State Board of Education at several stages. A continuing need for improved school facilities lies ahead. One of the on-going challenges for the State Board is to foster the wise use of state resources during a time of shifting and declining student populations and resources.

Milestones: The Maine State Board of Education shall pursue this goal through the following milestones:

1. By early 2017, develop rule changes and new project rating systems necessary and appropriate to initiate a new candidate list for future year state-supported construction.
2. By the end of 2017, initiate the process for a new round of state-supported new school construction projects.
3. In 2019, announce a new, prioritized slate of state-supported new school construction projects.

Implementation Plan and Performance Measures:

- A. Currently 12 school projects are on the “protected list”. During 2016, work with DOE to assure that all projects are moved toward completion. Also consider adding new projects within the established list as necessary.
- B. During 2016 - 2017 reevaluate Chapters 60 & Chapter 61 rules pertaining to school construction projects. We will explore school size, travel times and investigate ways to create incentives between districts.
- C. Introduce a new rating system process with work starting in 2016 and new list completed by 2019. Work would be done in conjunction with the DOE and Commissioner of Education.
- D. Once a new list has been established (2019) announce “priority projects”.
- E. While not under SBE regulations, work with the DOE in championing for Revolving Construction Funds.
- F. Advocate for and administer any federal construction funds as they become available - ongoing

Approved
Vote: 6-0-0
Date: 3/13/2013

Approved
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